

# Youth



CELEBRATION OF EUROPE DAY

The 2007 development of the work programme of the FSG's Youth Area has once again benefitted from economic and institutional support from the Youth Institute with the signing of the VIII Collaboration Agreement, from the **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency** of the European Union and from many local and/or regional administrations which have backed the development of youth activities carried out through the territorial youth area.

The following different lines of work were conducted in 2007:

The Fundación Secretariado Gitano has been working for over 7 years now in a stable and ongoing fashion on programmes and activities focusing on youth. The pilot experience dates back to the year 2000 with the implementation of the Youth Area focusing specifically on the management of the Youth Information and Participation Network called “*Chavós Nebó – Youth Today*” supporting the transversal inclusion of Roma youth in the design and implementation of public youth policies and the implementation of a work programme through a mainstream service fostering the social participation of Roma youth within the framework of active citizenship.

» **Information and Participatory Youth Network “Chavós Nebó – Youth Today”.** *An intercultural forum for young people.* Within the framework of this programme, 2007 has been a year of expansion in the number of youth information services established and managed by the FSG which now has 24 teams in operation. All services are recognised by the respective Coordination Centres and local and/or regional administrations favouring the undertaking of work programmes focusing on dissemination, information, training, awareness-raising and youth empowerment.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRAINING COURSE ENTITLED “VALUES AND IDENTITY OF EUROPE” AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

of awareness-raising campaigns where Roma youth empowerers play an active role. The seminar took place in January at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

› **Collaboration with other youth organisations, participation in fora and technical assistance.**

- Collaboration with the Spanish Youth Council and the regional youth councils is part of our institutional action giving Roma youth both representation and a voice in decision taking platforms and the exchange of experiences among young people.
- At European level we have once again participated in a training seminar of the FERYP (Forum of European Roma Young People) whose purpose is to facilitate tools for the design

- Within the framework of the European Commission’s *Youth Programme*, we collaborated with Slovakia’s *Nova Cesta* Youth Association which led the project called *Get to know each other* which was a cultural youth exchange among young Roma from Montenegro, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Spain and Slovakia.
- In 2007 we continued to collaborate with the Spanish Youth Council with which we have signed a Collaboration Agreement. Since 2006 the FSG has coordinated a working group for Roma youth within the Council.

› **Transnational cooperation and European projection of the Youth Area.**

Most of the activities of the transnational project entitled *European Citizenship / Roma Youth* funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education and Culture were implemented in 2007. This project seeks to familiarise Roma youth with the concept of European citizenship. Project activities are also carried out by the following partner organisations: *Romani Baht Foundation* (Bulgaria), *Open Society Foundation* (Slovakia), *Impreuna Agency for Community Development* (Romania) and *Athinganoi S. O.* (Czech Republic).



“The *Chavós Nebó - Youth Today* Youth Information and Participation Network now amounts to 24 Youth Information Services with new services in Alicante, Almería, Elche, Huelva, Jerez and La Línea”



THE EUROPEAN PROJECT'S FIRST STUDY VISIT TO STRASBOURG

The following major activities were carried out in 2007 in Spain within the framework of FSG actions:

› **Celebration of Europe Day.** This act served as the official presentation of the project. It was organised in Gijón bringing together 50 people including Roma youth taking part in other project activities. The act included a discussion-debate on the course followed by the Roma community in Europe, the role of ethnic minorities in youth participation fora and a visualisation of the current practices implemented by some administrations to foster active citizenship among ethnic minorities.

› **I Training Course on Values and Identity of Europe.** The project's first training course focused on the origin and development of Europe as a peaceful union of States, the values and objectives behind it and the symbols identifying it. It was held in June in Asturias and combined the theoretical part on citizenship with practical experiences such as educational visits to the Town Hall and the General Assembly of the Principality of

## “Roma Youth – European Citizenship”, the European projection of the FSG's Area of Youth.

Asturias. Nineteen Roma youth from several Autonomous Communities took part.

› **II Training Course on the Structure and makeup of the European Union.** This second training held in October in Murcia with 15 participants focused on the political structure of the European Union and accession criteria.

**I Study visit to Strasbourg.** The European Project's first study visit brought 21 Roma youth to Strasbourg in order to visit some of Europe's most emblematic buildings, to see how the institutions operate and to meet with people responsible for the Council of Europe's ethnic minority programmes and the Roma and Traveller Division, members of the advisory team of the Human Rights Commissioner and also with the Council of Europe's Youth Sector.